

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application  
PCT/EP00/03763 filed April 26, 2000**

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 9-20 are currently pending in the instant application.

The Specification has been amended to include the preferred section headings pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.77. An Abstract of the Disclosure in accordance with the abstract of the corresponding international publication has been added on a separate sheet following the claims. All of the amendments to the Specification constitute deletions of original section headings and/or paragraphs, and insertions or additions of new section headings and/or paragraphs. It is submitted that the amendments to the Specification made herein introduce no new matter. Their entry is therefore proper and respectfully requested. Accordingly, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)(iii), no separate page captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE" is necessary.

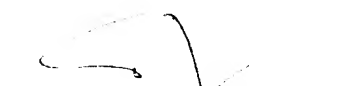
Original claims 1-8 have been canceled and replaced with new claims 9-20 solely for the purpose of improving clarity and grammar, which may suffer in translation, and not for any reason which relates to the statutory requirements for a patent. New claims 9-20 have not been added in response to any rejection, nor in anticipation of any rejection. Applicant(s) respectfully submit(s) that the scope of new claims 9-20 corresponds to the scope of original claims 1-8, and that new claims 9-20 are no narrower than original claims 1-8. Furthermore, although a moot point in view of their cancellation, Applicant(s) respectfully submit(s) that original claims 1-8 satisfied the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, as filed. New claims 9-20 are supported by the claims as originally filed and by the Examples. No new matter has been introduced. Entry is therefore believed by Applicant to be proper and respectfully requested.

Prompt examination of the instant application in view of the amendments

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made herein is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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